

## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Cabeza Prieta NWR 1611 N. Second Avenue Ajo, Arizona 85321-1634 August, 18, 2010



## **MEMORANDUM**

To:

Chief, Division of Contracting and General Services, R2 CGS

From:

Cabeza Prieta NWR, Curt McCasland

Subject:

Request for approval for Single-Source to AZ Game & Fish Department (FWS

PR# 22571-A-J018)

Approval is requested to provide notice of intent to make a single-source award to Arizona Game & Fish Department (AZGFD), via a new agreement with the recipient. The single-source determination is in accordance with criteria #4 (Unique Qualifications) under Department of Interior guidance (505 DM 2 AT 2.14)

The objective of the cooperative agreement with AZGFD is to participate with AZGFD in the design and construction of a research paddock for Sonoran pronghorn as an extension to the existing captive breeding pen. We need to experimentally determine the most appropriate, efficient and safe technique for transitioning groups of captured pen-raised pronghorn for release into the wild. The results of this experiment will be used refine our Sonoran pronghorn release protocol, the success of which is directly linked to the recovery of these pronghorn within their current range.

Each year, we will have a group of pronghorn that need to be removed from the pen to avoid complications associated with overcrowding and potential inbreeding. We need the ability to remove targeted pronghorn from the captive breeding pen and temporarily contain them until they fully recover from the capture operation or until suitable conditions exist for releasing them into the wild. We need to periodically release the pronghorn from the captive rearing pen into the wild to meet goals and objectives identified in the 1998 Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Plan.

The cooperative agreement with AZGFD has been entered into to facilitate effective and efficient coordination in conducting these design and construction related activities including scope of work preparation, and also to have the contracting expertise to enable and oversee the timely and proficient completion of these activities.

AZGFD is uniquely qualified to complete the activities necessary to assure that commitment and support is maintained to achieve the goals and objectives throughout the term of the agreement. AZGFD is uniquely qualified to perform the activity based on their technical expertise in the design, construction and management of the existing pen and the captive population of Sonoran pronghorn within. The Service has a long-standing cooperative agreement in place with the AZGFD for the operation and management of the existing pen. The AZGFD has managed a similar facility for six years and is uniquely qualified to design and oversee the construction of

the pen extension. There is no external substitute or source for the technical knowledge gained from years of pen operation, modification, maintenance and the management of the pronghorn within. There is likewise, no Service representative that has the experience to oversee the construction of the pen extension.

These activities will be performed on lands administered by the U.S. Fish and wildlife Service. Both agencies are mandated to ensure the recovery of Sonoran pronghorn.

Approve

Deny

Signature

Chief, Contracting and General Services, FWS R2

Date 09/16/2010